



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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22 January 1991

Daily Report

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CONTENTS

22 January 1991

CENTRAL AFRICA

Cameroon

Reaction, Anxiety Over Gulf War Cited <i>[PANA]</i>	1
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Central African Republic

Station Commentary Views Gulf Conflict <i>[Bangui Radio]</i>	1
--	---

Congo

Parliament Ratifies 4th Lome Convention <i>[PANA]</i>	1
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Sao Tome & Principe

PCD Opposition Wins First Multiparty Elections <i>[PANA]</i>	1
Closer Ties With Portugal Sought <i>[Lisbon Radio]</i>	2

Zaire

Security Council Chairman, Iraqi Envoy Talk <i>[Accra Radio]</i>	2
Security Forces Disperse Students After Riots <i>[PANA]</i>	2
Ties To Be Reestablished With Gulf States <i>[PANA]</i>	2

EAST AFRICA

Somalia

Government, USC Meet, Discuss Cease-Fire <i>[Mogadishu Radio]</i>	3
'Unanimous Agreement' Reached <i>[Mogadishu Radio]</i>	4
Cease-Fire Talks Continue <i>[Mogadishu Radio]</i>	4
Government's Resignation Accepted <i>[Mogadishu Radio]</i>	4
Cease-Fire Set for Midnight <i>[Mogadishu Radio]</i>	4
USC Rebels Report on Situation, Position	5
Status of Siad 'Remnants' Cited <i>[Radio of the Somali National Movement]</i>	5
Appeal to Loyalist Troops <i>[Radio of the Somali National Movement]</i>	5
Reject Prime Minister Appointment <i>[London International]</i>	5

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ministry Says Mandela Statement 'Unfortunate' <i>[SAPA]</i>	6
ANC Urges Iraqi, U. S. Withdrawal, Talks <i>[Johannesburg Radio]</i>	6
Tel Aviv Embassy Staff Moved 'As Precaution' <i>[Johannesburg Radio]</i>	6
Muslim Council Appeals for Leave To Join War <i>[Johannesburg Radio]</i>	6
19 Jan Press Review of Current Issues, Problems <i>[THE CITIZEN]</i>	6
21 Jan Press Review of Current Issues, Problems <i>[SUNDAY TIMES, etc]</i>	6
22 Jan Press Review of Current Issues, Problems <i>[THE CITIZEN, etc.]</i>	8

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Reaction to, Commentary on Gulf Conflict	9
Official Condemns U.S. Actions [Luanda Radio]	9
UNITA Issues Communique [Voice of the Black Cockerel]	9

Mozambique

Joint Commission Meets, Considers 'Incidents'	10
Italian Envoy on Accord Violation [Maputo Radio]	10
Parties Asked To End Hostilities [Maputo International]	10
Reaction to Gulf War; Effects on Country	11
Daily on Saddam's 'Intransigence' [PANA]	11
Trade Minister on Economy [Maputo Radio]	11
Business Official Comments [Maputo Radio]	11
Finance Minister on Fuel Situation [Maputo Radio]	11

WEST AFRICA

Niger

Niger Radio, Senegalese React to Gulf Fighting [Libreville Africa No. 1]	12
Students Demand Withdrawal of Troops From Gulf [London International]	12

Liberia

Cease-Fire Talks Begin in Monrovia 18 Jan	12
Johnson, Taylor Reconcile [London International]	12
More on Talks [London International]	13
Talks Continue [Monrovia Radio ELBC]	14
Agreement Reportedly Reached [Monrovia Radio ELBC]	14
Talks 'Deadlock' Over Troops [Monrovia Radio ELBC]	14

Cameroon

Reaction, Anxiety Over Gulf War Cited

AB1801224991 Dakar PANA in French 1850 GMT
18 Jan 91

[Text] Yaounde, 18 Jan (CAMNEWS/PANA)—The launching of the Gulf War Wednesday night has plunged Cameroonians into a state of great anxiety and distress, it was noted in the Cameroonian capital. The Cameroonian External Relations Ministry announced that measures had been taken to ensure that the 3,000 Cameroonians living in Saudi Arabia and in the United Arab Emirates are regrouped in Jeddah.

The same sources pointed out that funds have been released to enable them to buy gas masks to face any eventuality. In Yaounde where the people still remember the sad events of the attempted coup on 6 April 1984 against President Biya's regime, people were desolate when they learned through Western radio stations of the damage suffered by Iraq following the first attack by the multinational force.

On the propriety of the American intervention in the Gulf to free Kuwait, Cameroonians are divided. Some support the implementation of and respect for international law, while others wished that the same UN resolutions were implemented for all conflicts, in particular the problem of the occupation of Palestine by Israel, and as quickly as in this case.

On the part of the diplomats accredited to Yaounde, the attack by the multinational force was not a big surprise, especially in the face of the inflexibility of the Iraqi stand. According to the Algerian ambassador in Yaounde, Mr. Benkhelil, if Kuwait were merely a date-producing country, the countries now attacking Iraq would never have gone to its rescue. The Arab nation feels battered because this aggression will leave a deep scar, he said, adding that as long as the Palestinian question is not solved, there will always be much risk of conflict in the region.

Also, it seems no special security measures have been taken to protect the embassies of the United States, France, Great Britain (strongly involved in the conflict), it was noted.

Central African Republic

Station Commentary Views Gulf Conflict

AB2101200191 Bangui Domestic Service
in French 1800 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Raymond Tego commentary]

[Excerpt] Listeners, here is the question: Can there be a recession in 1990 [words indistinct] barrels of oil from Kuwait [words indistinct] that the Gulf conflict in the Arab and Persian areas essentially concerns the countries

in that region [words indistinct]. Let me reject that straight away, because that way of looking at things does not enable one to broadly understand the effects of this confrontation, which affects all countries, no matter what their distance from the area involved in the conflict, namely the Near East. We must not forget that we all without exception live within the great community of nations with its peculiarities. We must not forget that all the member countries of this international community are [words indistinct] and sovereign. [passage indistinct]

The current conflict in the Gulf is nothing less than a brotherly offensive among countries belonging to the great family of the United Nations. [words indistinct] However, one may fear that the fate of countries that have already thrown themselves into the war does not [words indistinct] and does not extend to other countries that have so far maintained absolute neutrality. Thus, wisdom makes it imperative that we be conscious of the threats this conflict may pose at the international level. [passage indistinct]

But, as far as we Central Africans are concerned, this situation was foreseeable, and President Andre Kolingba has dwelt on this in his address to the people of the Central African Republic in his important message of 31 December 1990. [passage omitted, including indistinct portions]

Congo

Parliament Ratifies 4th Lome Convention

AB2101183691 Dakar PANA in English 1017 GMT
21 Jan 91

[Text] Dakar, 21 Jan. (ACI/PANA)—The Congolese Parliament has ratified the Fourth Lome Convention which regulates the economic cooperation existing between the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

Speaking at the ratification ceremony in Brazzaville on 17 January, the minister of planning and economy, Pierre Moussa, said that Congo would receive 18 billion francs CFA over a five-year period under the Fourth Lome Convention signed on 15 December, 1989 between the 12 EEC members and the 69 ACP countries.

The convention which came into force on 1 March 1990, will last 10 years while the financial protocol accompanying it will be for five years. Previous conventions lasted for five years.

Sao Tome & Principe

PCD Opposition Wins First Multiparty Elections

AB2101160091 Dakar PANA in English 1536 GMT
21 Jan 91

[Text] Lisbon, 21 Jan (AIM/PANA)—An opposition grouping, the Party of Democratic Convergence (PCD), Sunday won the first multi-party elections held in the tiny island Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. This is the

second time in January that an opposition force has won multi-party elections in a former Portuguese colony. In Cape Verde the Movement for Democracy (MPD), led by political unknowns, won an absolute majority recently in parliamentary elections, defeating the ruling PAICV (African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde) who had been in power since independence in 1975.

Initial reports show that the PCD, led by Leonel d'Alva, has won about 70 percent of the vote, which should give it more than 32 of the 55 seats in Parliament. The ruling MLSTP/PSD [Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe/Social Democratic Party] came in second, with around 30 percent of the votes, which should translate into 20 or 21 seats.

The MLSTP (Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe) had ruled the two islands, which have a total population of about 100,000, since independence from Portugal in 1975. At the end of 1990, it changed its name, adding the initials PSD (Social Democratic Party).

Two smaller parties, the Democratic Coalition and the Christian Democratic Front, picked up two percent of the vote. They will probably have three seats between them in Parliament. Between 6 and 7 percent of the electorate did not vote. A group of four Portuguese parliamentary observers said the elections were conducted peacefully.

Closer Ties With Portugal Sought

*LD2101160691 Lisbon Domestic Service
in Portuguese 0800 GMT 21 Jan 91*

[Excerpt] The elections in Sao Tome e Principe have been won by the opposition Democratic Convergence Party—Reflection Group [PCD]. The leader of the new ruling party told our correspondent, Vitor Soares, that one of the new government's priorities will be to deepen relations with Portugal:

[Soares] In the view of PCD President Leonel D'Alva, the new government's priorities are concerned with the economic and social system which did not work and therefore hindered cooperation with Portugal. He said that the PCD is committed to a more dynamic and intensive cooperation with Portugal.

[Begin D'Alva recording] We want to change things so as to render cooperation between Sao Tome e Principe and Portugal more dynamic and intensive. We believe that this cooperation can cover many areas but since, up to now, the Sao Tomean economic and social system did not function properly, our cooperation did not develop as it should. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Zaire

Security Council Chairman, Iraqi Envoy Talk

*AB2001135791 Accra Domestic Service
in English 1300 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[Text] The current chairman of the UN Security Council has met with Iraq's UN envoy in New York to discuss

ideas for ending the Gulf War. In their first meeting since the outbreak of hostilities last Wednesday night, Ambassador (Bagbeni Adito Izingeya) of Zaire and the Iraqi envoy, Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, discussed an Algerian initiative calling for UN action and an Indian plan calling for a cease-fire to allow time for diplomatic negotiations. The Iraqi ambassador said he will convey the ideas to his government. He referred to communications problems between New York and Baghdad, but he hoped for a response from Baghdad tomorrow.

UN sources say the plan by India, which is a member of the Nonaligned Movement, has not been officially submitted to the United Nations. Other countries, including Yugoslavia, Morocco, and Jordan, have offered their mediation.

Security Forces Disperse Students After Riots

*AB2101184291 Dakar PANA in English 1702 GMT
21 Jan 91*

[From "Africa at 1600" headlines]

[Text] Kinshasa—The offices of the rector and academic secretary general of Kinshasa University were ransacked Saturday by angry students who had not paid their fees. The disturbances continued Monday in the heart of Kinshasa but the students were dispersed by the security forces.

Ties To Be Reestablished With Gulf States

*AB1801105491 Dakar PANA in English 0925 GMT
18 Jan 91*

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Jan (PANA)—Zaire and four Gulf states have decided to reestablish diplomatic relations in the coming few days, Zaire's external affairs minister, Mushobekwa Wa Katana, has said.

Speaking in Kinshasa on Wednesday after he returned from a trip to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, the minister said the permanent missions of the states concerned at the UN would issue joint communique on the normalisation of relations between them.

While in Jeddah, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Doha, Katana held discussions with government officials who expressed their confidence in Zaire's presidency of the UN Security Council at this critical moment of the Gulf crisis.

Kuwait and Zaire announced normalisation of relations a few weeks ago during the visit of the an [as received] envoy of the emir to Goma, in the eastern part of the country where he was received by President Mobutu Sese Seko. Relations between the Central African country and the four Arab countries were broken when Kinshasa reestablished diplomatic relations with Israel.

Somalia

Government, USC Meet, Discuss Cease-Fire

EA1901092591 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 2006 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statements by Omar Mohamed Abdirahman, information and national guidance minister; Hussein Haji Mohamed Bod, Somali elder, United Somali Congress, USC, representative; Ahmed Mohamed Darman, Somali elder, USC member; Sheikh Hussein Hassan Ali, chairman of the Cease-Fire Committee; Brigadier General (Abdullahi Ahmed Iro), Somali Army representative; date, place not given]

[Text] [Begin Omar Mohamed Abdirahman recording] [passage indistinct] Although the cease-fire has not been fully enforced, it is intended to be properly implemented. You will be informed about it by the experts. I wish to inform you, brothers, that the agenda of today's meeting consisted of two things. The first was to fully enforce the cease-fire. The second is that this (?committee) has met the president and has been informed by him that he would accept whatever proposals were made to him. The committee therefore appointed a subcommittee, which drafted a reasonable and respectful letter of advice to the president. The letter is addressed to the president and after reading it, the president is expected to accept its contents, as he promised.

A [word indistinct] political change is being asked of the president in the letter. The change should be in compliance with the Constitution, since the Constitution is clear. That is what the letter is about. We have here with us the two leaders of the elders [words indistinct] and they will brief you on the cease-fire and how the flow of Somali blood is to be stopped by separating the warring parties and ending the chaos in our capital, putting out the flames, and burying our dead who are on the streets. You will hear them shortly. [end recording]

That was the minister of information, Omar Mohamed Abdirahman, briefing us on the meeting held today. We now hear Comrade Hussein Haji Mohamed Bod, who has been chosen from among the Somali elders and who is also representing the USC, of which he is a member. He is the chairman of the USC Implementation Committee. He will issue general advice to the warring parties and advise on how to reach a solution to the problems currently facing the Somali people. Hussein Haji Mohamed Bod, speaking on this matter, said the following:

[Begin Bod recording] As the minister has said, the Reconciliation Committee's settlement is the best for finding a solution to the problem in Somalia, which has brought about suffering, war, and destruction in the country in general and particularly now in Mogadishu. After the first cease-fire call, as the minister told you, we resolved many issues and many resolutions were [word indistinct], the last of which were passed on to President Mohamed Siad Barre, and we hope that he will sign the proposals. The soldiers, wherever they may be, were then

ordered to immediately implement a cease-fire unless attacked. While we hope [word indistinct] from the side to work for peace and to settle the problem, which includes the political [word indistinct] our economy and the soil. We hope the other side (?will exercise the same) [word indistinct]. We assure that the USC soldiers will wait for what they have forever been waiting for. [sentence as heard]

However, [words indistinct] I request that you immediately observe this committee's resolution as you wait for the outcome of the resolution of the matter between the committee and the president. [end recording]

Hussein Haji Mohamed Bod has forwarded proposals for achieving peace in the conflicts and also paving the way for a good future for the people. Among the USC members is Ahmed Mohamed Darman, who is also a member of the elders who are working for peace and reconciliation. He also made some suggestions and proposed a good method of achieving the unity of the Somali people: to leave the problems that have occurred to history, to forget them, and work for the future of the Somali people. He said that the conflict has harmed children and the brotherly Somali people and therefore rehabilitation is needed. The collapse of the economy should be regretted by all in unity and in togetherness.

[Begin Darman recording] As Hussein has told you, no one needs to be informed about the evils that have taken place in Somalia and the scourges that have encompassed the country. The elders and the good Somali people, including all sides, met on ways of settling the issue. As we saw the matter... [six-minute break in transmission]

[Begin Sheikh Hussein Hassan Ali recording, in progress] ...tradition and Islam do not permit. Another (?thing) we would like to tell both sides is that they should protect and safeguard the property of the Somali people and the national property in their areas because this property is not personal. It belongs to the nation; therefore it belongs to all of us and should be protected by both sides.

We are also appealing to both sides not to extend the shooting to areas not yet affected, and that each side should confine itself to where it is until [words indistinct].

We are appealing for the preservation of important national areas, such as the radio station, the post office, the airport, the port, national buildings, telephones, fuel depots, hospitals, schools, underground fuel depots, and water wells, which belong to all Somalis. Anyone destroying these will be committing an unforgivable crime against the Somali people. Thank you. [end recording]

Thank you very much. That was the chairman of the cease-fire committee, Sheikh Hussein Hassan Ali. In conclusion, we shall hear Brigadier General (Abdullahi Ahmed Iro), representing the Somali Army, giving an

undertaking by the Army of their willingness to resolve any problem to (?maintain) order:

[Begin (Iro) recording] In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate. As a representative of the Defense Ministry, we pledge to obey the directives and resolutions passed by the Reconciliation Committee and to strive toward effecting a cease-fire and separating the two sides.

The members of the Armed Forces are carrying out their obligation to obey government decisions and the outcome of the general meeting held here today which, as has already been stated by those who spoke before me, aims to save the suffering Somali people and our capital Mogadishu, which has been destroyed. For that reason, I once again pledge that we shall obey the resolutions and will effect an immediate cease-fire. We shall at the same time inform all members of the Somali Armed Forces. Peace be upon you. [end recording]

'Unanimous Agreement' Reached

*EA1901095691 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 18 Jan 91*

[Text] Comrade Omar Mohamed Abdirahman, Omar Dhereh, Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] minister of information and national guidance, disclosed today that there has been unanimous agreement at the peace and reconciliation talks in progress in Mogadishu. The minister said that the Reconciliation Committee, composed of government officials, elders selected from the Somali people, and opposition forces, had reached an understanding for a complete cease-fire and that the decision reached by the Peace and Reconciliation Committee, was passed on to Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, SDR president.

Comrade Omar Mohamed Abdirahman, Omar Dhereh, went on to call on the warring parties to respond to the peace based on coexistence and brotherhood. He said that this is an opportunity to reach a lasting peaceful solution and the nation will have been healed from [word indistinct] and misunderstandings that may have cropped up among them.

Cease-Fire Talks Continue

*EA1901202091 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 19 Jan 91*

[Text] A committee comprised of members of the Somali Government, intellectuals, elders, and groups opposed to the government is continuing to hold talks on the best way of achieving a cease-fire and the future coexistence of the Somali masses. So far the meeting is going smoothly. The participants of the meeting have pointed out problems brought by the war, and ways of overcoming it, given that the war is an agent of destruction.

Government's Resignation Accepted

*EA2001193091 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[Text] Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] president, this afternoon announced that he has accepted the recommendations of the reconciliation committee and the resignation of Mohamed Hawadle Madhar's government. Addressing the nation through the country's mass media, Comrade Siad [words indistinct] 21 October in the fields of [words indistinct], social, culture, communications, and so on. [passage indistinct] the president spoke of the lost unity, reverence, and dignity of society, giving examples of the recent evil activities of killings, looting, and the misuse of the environment. He said that the war and hostilities within the fraternal nation were the main factors leading to these evil activities. To find a solution to the problems, he said that he had appointed elders from the public and government officials. The president said he would accept any resolutions that preserve the unity of the Somali masses.

Speaking on the recommendations of the reconciliation committee, Comrade Siad said that he has accepted the resignation of Comrade Mohamed Hawadle Madar's government. After considering the recommendations of the reconciliation committee, the president appointed Comrade Omar Arteh Ghaleb prime minister. He called on Comrade Arteh to form a government which could (?solve) the current problems in the SDR, and which could also strive for the implementation of the cease-fire resolutions, bring back those who had fled the capital city, and develop Somali society and its interests.

Comrade Siad added that it was important that we should jointly think of the interests, unity and future of the Somali masses. He appealed to society to distance itself from anything that could endanger the nation's future. He said that the government was always aware of the positive steps spelled out by Somali intellectuals, such as the need for Somali people to regain their lost dignity and unity.

Cease-Fire Set for Midnight

*EA2101193191 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 21 Jan 91*

[Text] A committee composed of elders, government officials, and members of the United Somali Congress [USC] have jointly held discussions and resolved that a cease-fire be officially implemented effective at midnight. The parties involved in the armed conflict, who have been battling it out in the capital city, have been called upon to respect and abide by the decision with the hope of bringing an end to the war and finding a solution to the problems facing society.

USC Rebels Report on Situation, Position

Status of Siad 'Remnants' Cited

EA2101194291 (Clandestine) Radio of the
Somali National Movement in Somali
1600 GMT 21 Jan 91

[“Battle report”; from the “Hogogal” program]

[Text] On 30 December 1990, the heroic fighters of the sister movement, the United Somali Congress [USC], launched a full-scale attack on Mogadishu. The battle, which has been costly in human lives and property and which has rendered countless other citizens refugees in sister neighboring states such as Ethiopia, is still raging. Latest reports reaching us from the USC say that they have liberated most parts of Mogadishu city and that remnants of Siad Barre's loyalists are holed up in Avvissione [military barracks near Mogadishu airport], the new port, and Halane [national militia training college].

Further reports reaching us from our sister liberation movement, the USC, say that they have also captured the towns of Xuddur and Baydhabo (both northwest of Mogadishu), dealing the enemy a devastating blow from which they can never recover. During the operation, the righteous combatants captured many vehicles and food-stuffs and lots of ammunition, killing 85 loyalist soldiers and wounding many others. There were few casualties on the side of the liberation movement, according to their report.

Appeal to Loyalist Troops

EA2101215891 (Clandestine) Radio of the
Somali National Movement in Somali
1600 GMT 21 Jan 91

[From the “Hogogal” program]

[Excerpt] The second part of our program tonight is a call directed to troops still loyal to dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. Since the capital city of our motherland is engulfed in a savage battle between the dictator's troops and the righteous fighters of the United Somali Congress [USC], it is needless for us to underline the death, destruction, and hardships that have befallen the Somali people since the fighting broke out. In order to prevent further bloodshed, we have resolved to make a plea to the remnants of Siad's diehards and the refugees. [passage omitted]

Now that the dictator's era is nearing its end and his star is waning, we would like to plead with our brothers. To those remnants of Siad's soldiers on the run and to refugees, lend us your ears for a moment. We—the

opposition movements and their radio station—call upon you to do the following:

1. We call upon you, as the soldiers of the masses, to mutiny and defend your oppressed masses and join the liberation forces. In doing so, you will have accomplished the oath you took: to defend the citizens you swore to defend;
2. To the citizens who have been rendered refugees, we call upon you not to join the diehard loyalists in order to fight your kith and kin, but to stay out of the conflict and go to your rural homes.
3. To you, the loyalist troops, the diehards, and the refugees—You are our misguided brothers who have been brainwashed. You must remember that we are fighting for the same cause, and that is to have a just and democratic system replace the dictatorial regime. In doing so, you will not be held accountable for the sins you committed against the masses. Remember, everyone will be rewarded for his contribution. We are in the final hour. Save your skin, join the mass action, and be heroes.

Reject Prime Minister Appointment

AB2201102491 London BBC World Service
in English 1709 GMT 21 Jan 91

[From the “African News”]

[Text] Rebels fighting to overthrow the president of Somalia, Siad Barre, have rejected the appointment of a new prime minister, Mr. Omar Arteh Ghaleb. Mr. Omar Arteh has been a member of the committee appointed to draw up a peace plan to end the continuing civil war between rebels and government troops in Somalia.

Yesterday, Mogadishu radio announced that President Siad Barre had accepted the resignation of the government and appointed Mr. Omar Arteh as the new prime minister, but a spokesman for the rebel United Somali Congress [USC], says that President Siad Barre himself should resign before a cease-fire can come into effect. In a statement from London, the USC said that it now, effectively, controls Mogadishu, and that the three main opposition movements were in the process of forming a transitional government. The statement also criticized the role of the peace committee describing it as a cheap propaganda ploy.

A BBC correspondent says that independent observers are surprised that Omar Arteh has associated himself with President Siad Barre. Mr. Omar Arteh, a former foreign minister, was arrested in 1982 and sentenced to death six years later after being convicted of treason. He was later released and placed under house arrest.

Ministry Says Mandela Statement 'Unfortunate'

MB1801184891 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1830 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Pretoria Jan 18 SAPA—A spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Order said on Friday the statement by ANC [African National Congress] Deputy President Nelson Mandela that his organisation would take power by force if it failed to reach an agreement with the government, is most unfortunate in the light of the recent negotiation process.

SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported that Mr. Mandela made the remark at the end of a two-day visit to Zambia.

The Law and Order spokesman said the statement was likely to heighten the existing conflict potential in South Africa even further.

He said leaders should realise that inflammatory statements could lead to violence.

They should therefore exercise restraint if peace was to have any meaningful chance.

ANC Urges Iraqi, U. S. Withdrawal, Talks

MB1901164891 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1600 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] In a moderate reaction to the Persian Gulf War, the African National Congress says it is critical that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, and that bilateral negotiations take place to resolve the conflict.

Ms Gill Marcus said on the organization's behalf that the United States should also withdraw from the region, and that an international conference should be convened to try to resolve the entire Middle East question.

Tel Aviv Embassy Staff Moved 'As Precaution'

MB1901192491 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1845 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] South Africa has moved most of the staff of its embassy in Tel Aviv to other places in Israel, as a precaution against a possible chemical weapons attack by Iraq.

A Foreign Affairs Department spokesman said that the South African ambassador to Israel, Mr. Johan Viljoen, and the members of staff who remained behind had been ordered to close the embassy if they deemed it necessary.

A telephone conversation between the minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Pik Botha, and Mr. Viljoen this morning had to be terminated when air raid sirens began wailing in Tel Aviv.

The spokesman said that Mr. Botha had briefed the cabinet today on the situation in the Middle East.

Muslim Council Appeals for Leave To Join War

MB2201061291 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The Moslem Council of Theologians of South Africa has made an urgent appeal to the state president, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, to allow a force of South African Moslems to leave for Iraq immediately to help in what it called the holy war against the United States and its allies.

In a message sent to Mr. de Klerk at the weekend, the council said it intended to recruit a force of 10,000 men to assist Iraqi Moslems, who it said were being slaughtered mercilessly and humanely [as heard] in air raids by the allied forces. The council said that if permission was granted, it would make arrangements with a Moslem country to provide the necessary transport and training facilities.

19 Jan Press Review of Current Issues, Problems

MB1901084191

[Editorial report]

THE CITIZEN

Gulf War 'Heated Political Issue'—"The Gulf war has become a heated political issue in South Africa," observes Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 18 January in a page 6 editorial. White politicians are divided on this issue, "we have divisions between the Jews" and the Muslims, and "blacks are also divided, with Inkatha Freedom Party leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, siding with the allied forces, and the ANC's [African National Congress] sympathies appearing to be more with Saddam. We don't know why South Africans should get so hot under the collar."

21 Jan Press Review of Current Issues, Problems

MB2101100791

[Editorial report]

SUNDAY TIMES

U.S. Encouraged To Solve Problems By Warfare—Iraq's fate now is to "be pounded into submission," and it is already "possible to discern both good and bad consequences," notes a page 22 editorial in Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English on 20 January. "Among the bad is that the United States, now unchallenged on earth, will be encouraged in its growing propensity to solve problems by warfare—in Grenada, in Panama (where its kidnapping of a head of state can barely be distinguished from the behaviour of Saddam himself) and now in the Middle East." Nevertheless, SUNDAY TIMES also sees a "credit side." "President Bush, as skilled in foreign policy as Richard Nixon and twice as diplomatic, took great care to build an international coalition cloaked with the authority of the United Nations. He may not have intended to do so but he has,

in effect, revived the original vision of a United Nations as an international policeman, equipped with the means to enforce international law, which inspired the provision of Chapter VII of the UN Charter which authorise the use of force."

SUNDAY STAR

Government 'Hides Behind' National Interest—A page 18 editorial in Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English on 20 January refers to the defamation suit brought against two South African newspapers by South African Police (SAP) forensic chief, General Lothar Neethling, saying: "Quite apart from his important finding that police hit-squads did indeed exist—thereby calling into question the findings of the Harms Commission—Mr. Justice Kriegler found that although THE WEEKLY MAIL had not proved its allegations that poisoned liquor intended for ANC [African National Congress] members was supplied by SAP laboratories, the matter was of such importance the public had a right to know." SUNDAY STAR is "very pleased" that the judge's findings that media reports on police death squads were true "has reaffirmed the integrity of the South African press." The government must not hide "behind the skirts of 'national' interest when withholding information which, in fact, should be disclosed in the national interest."

BUSINESS DAY

Privatization Must Be on Economic Agenda—"Privatisation was going great guns until the ANC and COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] made threatening noises about renationalisation," declares Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 21 January in a page 8 editorial. While it may have been "expedient" to put the program on the back burner while "bigger constitutional and security issues" were being negotiated, there are "now good reasons why privatisations should return to the economic agenda." The most important is that South Africa will have to "mobilise massive amounts of money for social spending and to create jobs." Privatization "provides a quick way of activating local resources held by institutions reluctant to invest in greenfields projects."

Mandela-Buthelezi Meeting 'Opportunity'—A second editorial on the same page says the proposed meeting between Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi on 29 January in Durban, is an opportunity "to steal a march on President De Klerk days before the opening of Parliament." People are entitled to expect "a joint initiative aimed at creating an atmosphere of hope and tolerance in South Africa. Talk of a democratic future is meaningless while no more than lip-service is paid to such fundamentals as freedom of political association."

CAPE TIMES

Single Education Ministry Needed—The Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English of 17 January states in an editorial on page 6 the Department of Education and

Training has drawn attention to an "untenable" state of affairs in some of black schools in the Pretoria area where pupils have "put teachers to flight and have taken the question of admissions into their own hands. If the department finds it necessary to close such schools forthwith it will be regrettable—but it might be the only possible course if yet another school year is not to be blighted by anarchy." "It is essential that this malaise be isolated and eradicated. So it is up to parents of children at the schools in question to take a hand to restore discipline," continues the editorial. However, it adds, the imbalance in education facilities must not be ignored. "The backlog in provision of classrooms and textbooks, and particularly in teacher training, calls for massive, sustained expenditure," it says, concluding that "it will be necessary to rationalize education under a single department and ministry, doing away with the wasteful apartheid bureaucracies."

BEELD

Enough of ANC Provocation—A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 16 January states: "South Africans have had enough of provocation and it is time that the ANC begins to understand this. Not only do this organization's supporters provoke the police in unrest areas. Now they are demanding the resignation of President F. W. de Klerk and Minister Adriaan Vlok because the police failed to prevent the massacre at Sebokeng." "There will be no peace until the ANC stops questioning the integrity of the police and white political leaders. As long as the ANC continues with this and drags its feet about holding talks with people like Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, it will be providing the excuse for criminals and political radicals to sow death and destruction. The irony is that its own people are the ones who suffer."

No Instant Solution for Middle East—In the Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans of 17 January an editorial on page 10 declares: "Never before has the world been so unanimous about the necessity for war—a war which it does not want! Once the UN deadline had passed and the hope for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis lay in tatters, two things were abundantly clear: President Saddam Husayn had himself made it impossible for him to withdraw from Kuwait on own volition, and equally, it had become impossible for the international alliance not to launch the attack." "Nevertheless, even now that the first bombs have been launched and the first shots fired, it must be borne in mind that the security problems of the Middle East are so intertwined that even a lightning victory will not bring an instant solution. The Middle East will still need an international policeman long after the last shot has been fired."

Guard Against Over-Optimism—On 18 January, the same newspaper notes in a page 12 editorial: "Most of the world was in a state of euphoria yesterday over the remarkably successful first Allied air attacks on the various strategic targets in Iraq and Kuwait." "Nevertheless, it is necessary to already start looking beyond

that and to ask what will take place in the long term." The paper continues: "Over-optimism must be guarded against. Truth is always the first victim in any war. President Husayn's propaganda proves this, but the Allied forces will also be tempted to exaggerate their achievements and hide their failures."

22 Jan Press Review of Current Issues, Problems

MB2201085791

[Editorial report]

THE CITIZEN

Death Squads Issue Needs To Be Probed Afresh—The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 21 January says in the defamation case against VRYE WEEKBLAD and THE WEEKLY MAIL, Justice Krieger found that the South African Police (SAP) forensic chief "supplied poisons to Dirk Coetzee, which the former fugitive policeman had unsuccessfully used in an attempt to murder anti-government activists." The finding "affects the credibility" of the forensic chief and involves the activities of the SAP Forensic Laboratory. "That casts doubt on the Harms Commission's findings and throws open again the whole question of death squads, which should be probed afresh."

THE STAR

Forensic Chief's 'Arrogance' Exposed—Referring to the defamation suit brought against two newspapers by the South African Police's (SAP) forensic chief, General Neethling, "who had been accused of supplying poison to State killers," Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 22 January in a page 12 editorial states: "The judge has also exposed the arrogance of power implicit in General Neethling's willingness to lie under oath—not just to protect himself, but to try to screw money out of newspapers that had the temerity to tell the truth about him. How the Minister of Law and Order and the Commissioner of Police react to this will speak volumes for the price the SAP puts on integrity."

Western Allies 'All Too Ready' To Wage War Against Nonwhites—In the "Opinion" column on the same page Ameen Akhalwaya, editor of THE INDICATOR, observes that many black South Africans and "American civil right

leaders" "suspect that the Western allies are all too ready to go to war against people who are not white, instead of trying every possible non-violent method. If 'just' wars and liberation for democracy were the criteria, why did the Americans and British refuse to impose sanctions, much less go to war, when apartheid forces occupied Namibia for so long? Many black South Africans ask why the Americans and the British were so reluctant to impose sanctions, never mind go to war, to help them reclaim the 87 percent of South Africa they insist was being occupied illegally by what they call settlers?"

SOWETAN

ANC, KwaZulu, Bophuthatswana 'Sitting Around' Same Fire—Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 22 January in a page 6 editorial says the ANC's Wilton Mkwayi "spoke too soon" when he told a crowd at the Jabulani Amphitheatre on 20 January that the governments of KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana were ready to "join" the ANC. But, even if KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana do not "join" the ANC, "anybody who wishes for a better future for South Africa will be happy to learn that the ANC, KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana are at least sitting around the same fire."

CITY PRESS

U.S., Allies 'Bully Boys' of West—Khulu Sibiyi writes in his "My Way" column on page 8 of Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English on 20 January that the United States and its allies "owe the rest of the world an explanation" for their role in "making Saddam [Husayn] what he is today and later wanting to destroy him." "The U.S. Government openly traded with Saddam and even supplied him with missiles in his war against Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran. Not that they cared much for Saddam even at that stage." "The U.S. State Department removed Iraq from its list of terrorist nations. The fee? Saddam was to buy American computers, commercial aircraft and other goods, in return supplying the U.S. with oil. Is President George Bush not calling Saddam a terrorist today?" "Western countries are known to be looking after their interests rather than those of other countries, especially Third World countries. The United States should not take exception when those who oppose the Middle East War call them the 'bully boys.' They have a shady history of putting their own people in power in countries they have invaded."

Angola

Reaction to, Commentary on Gulf Conflict

Official Condemns U.S. Actions

MB1901133091 Luanda Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1207 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Interview with People's Assembly First Secretary Lucio Lara by Radio Angola's Paula Simoes in Luanda; date not specified—live or recorded]

[Text] [Simoes] To what extent does that show of strength, that intervention by the United States exceed economic interests and experiments in war materiel to become a demonstration of a victory of the cold war?

[Lara] I think that the words, victory of the cold war, provide a slightly distorted picture of the problem. It could be said that the end of hot war was practically under preparation. With all the accords on [words indistinct], this new wave of dialogue throughout the globe, nuclear disarmament, the encouragement to hold talks to resolve conflicts, and so forth. All that was being optimistically predicted. However, I do not think that the United States, the most important partner [preceding word in English] in the matter, has always acted in good faith. On the contrary, we have the impression—and we, the Angolan people, are in a very good position to have an impression—that the United States and NATO are participating, contributing, and searching for an end to a certain cold war possibly occurring between the superpowers in the northern hemisphere. However, with this attempt to end the so-called cold war in the northern hemisphere, they are creating a greenhouse effect over the southern half of the world. We, the African people, especially in the north, can truthfully say that Africa has never been as hot as now.

Thus, the war that has erupted in Iraq has those characteristics and there is the risk that it will spread because the superpowers are involved. We are all facing the risk of returning to the days of...[pauses] I would not say [words indistinct] a very serious that may affect the whole world. What we really fear is that U.S. arrogance may encourage such developments.

Obviously, we condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. It occurred with the acquiescence of the United States. We should remember that Saddam Husayn met the U.S. ambassador and warned her of what he was going to do. That did not seem to be a major surprise to the U.S. ambassador. On the contrary, the U.S. ambassador almost assured him that the United States would turn a blind eye. The United States only woke up when it realized that it would mean that, by absorbing Kuwait, Iraq would have control over one fifth of the world's oil reserves.

That was perhaps one of the principal reasons for the United States to mobilize the Security Council, where you can see the big five and other countries, to end the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as radically as possible, in line with what the

international community had ordered. We are all in agreement that Kuwait had the right to see its problem resolved in a way other than an invasion by Iraq.

[Simoes] Kindly comment on the UN role in approving a resolution permitting the use of force against Iraq.

[Lara] Undoubtedly, many of the things that helped make the United Nations a strong body have suffered and the UN foundations have been shaken. This is because, first, the United Nations in many other issues of this kind, in which there has been the use of force...[pauses] let us cite the example of the U.S. Army's abduction of the Panama Canal president and its invasion of Panama and Granada. We can also mention the problem of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. Despite many UN Security Council resolutions, never has such a concerted and violent operation been planned to enforce a UN resolution.

With regard to the Iraqi issue, it was hoped that dialogue would be used, even for the UN Security Council resolution. In principle, it could even have been an acceptable resolution with a view to ending the problem. One can say that in this instance the United States, the superpower, ruled the whole process. Today, the United States is alone in the world with its arrogance and limited capacity to [words indistinct] it is clear that the United Nations is quite shaken by the fact that it allowed one of its superpowers, the United States, to lead the whole affair.

Let us remember the case of Korea. It bore a few resemblances to this one.

UNITA Issues Communiqué

MB1901062191 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and
Central Africa 0526 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Communiqué issued by the UNITA Central Committee Political Bureau and the FALA supreme command in Jamba on 18 January]

[Text] 1. All our people, militants, women, and men in uniform are closely following the war in the Persian Gulf.

2. In order to avoid speculation based on bad faith, it is our duty to clarify the following:

A. The war in the Persian Gulf neither dramatically affects our country's general situation nor the process of talks with the Luanda government.

B. The Gulf war could, for a while and to a certain extent, distract the attention of the United States and the Soviet Union, the superpowers involved in the Angolan peace process.

3. All UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] members and all FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] armed forces members must continue carrying out their normal duties.

We hereby call on everyone to listen to Vorgan [Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel], the only radio station capable of delivering impartial information.

Forward with our revolution—now!

[Issued] Jamba, bastion of Angolan resistance, on 18 January 1991, the year of defending the Angolan identity and attaining democracy

[Signed] Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, UNITA president, supreme FALA commander, and general of the Army; General Miguel N'zau Puna, secretary general; Gen. Tony da Costa Fernandes, foreign affairs secretary; Gen. Gaston Smart Chata, secretary for mobilization; Gen. Arlindo Chenda Pena Ben-Ben, chief of staff; Gen. Domingos Lutopo Iauca, deputy chief of staff; Gen. Altino Sapalalo Bock, secretary for military strategy and security; Gen. Isidro Peregrino Wabu Chindondo, military information chief; and Dr. Jorge Alicerces Valentim, information secretary, on behalf of the UNITA Central Committee Political Bureau and the FALA Supreme Command

Mozambique

Joint Commission Meets, Considers 'Incidents'

Italian Envoy on Accord Violation

MB1801190991 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1750 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Following the proposal of the French delegation, the Joint Commission established to verify the Rome agreement considered the incidents that took place in the Nacala and Tete corridors since the beginning of the year a matter of great concern. However, the commission expressed satisfaction over the lack of incidents since 9 January. Italian Ambassador Manfredo Camerana told Emilio Manhique in Maputo this morning that the work of the commission has been extremely difficult.

[Begin recording] [Camerana] Evidently, it is not easy. Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] rejects any responsibility for these incidents. Accordingly, the commission could not reach the right conclusion.

However, we must bear in mind that the commission is not a court. The commission is an instrument to facilitate dialogue and trust between the parties. The commission is not in Maputo to pass judgment. The commission is in Maputo to facilitate dialogue between the two parties.

[Manhique] However, despite the commission's objective to facilitate dialogue between the two parties, it appears to me, Mr. Ambassador, that continued violations of the agreement do not contribute toward this objective?

[Camerana] Nevertheless, we cannot speak of violation of the agreement on the side of Renamo because we have no evidence of this. That is why I prefer not to say that they are violations but incidents. All the same, there is a very, very positive element in that from 8 and 9 January things have been quiet and this means that Renamo is fully complying with the agreement and a greater trust is being established.

[Manhique] If neither Renamo nor the Government of Mozambique accept notifications of what you, Mr. Ambassador, prefer to call incidents, then where does the blame lie?

[Camerana] [laughs] It is a difficult question. We all know that the country is going through a very difficult period. There is no total control over the territory. There are dramatic situations of hunger, suffering, and so on. Armed groups exist in the country. The whole world is aware of this. Accordingly, it is possible that these incidents are caused by groups which are outside the control of the police, the Army, and so on. [end recording]

Also according to Ambassador Manfredo di Camerana, the commission has asked for instructions from delegations from the government, Renamo, and mediators due to meet in Rome soon, on the geographical definition of the corridors, since it is observed that the definition did not follow the land tract.

Parties Asked To End Hostilities

MB1801194891 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The International Commission which is monitoring the partial cease-fire in Mozambique has called for an end to all hostilities in the country. The chairman of the Joint Verification Commission [JVC], Italian Ambassador Manfredo Incisa di Camerana, told reporters in Maputo today that the commission had accepted a proposal to this effect from its French members.

The French proposal referred specifically to incidents since the beginning of the year in the Nacala and Tete corridors which serve as international trade routes for land-locked Malawi. A number of attacks by Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] have been reported from both these corridors which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Joint Verification Commission [words indistinct].

The Italian ambassador acknowledged that investigation of these attacks [words indistinct] but, he said, said they were a matter of great concern to the commission.

The commission was therefore making an urgent appeal to all (?parties) to abstain from all hostile acts not only in

these two corridors but also throughout Mozambican territory. The commission said this would be in the spirit of the agreement reached last month in Rome under which [words indistinct] corridors which link landlocked Zimbabwe to Mozambican ports. There have been a number of violations of the accord and the JVC has said Renamo was probably responsible. But the commission today expressed satisfaction that it has not been notified of any new incidents since Wednesday last week. Mr. Incisa di Camerana said this was evident that the agreement was working well.

Reaction to Gulf War; Effects on Country

Daily on Saddam's 'Intransigence'

AB1801160091 Dakar PANA in English 1441 GMT
18 Jan 91

[Text] Maputo, 18 Jan. (AIM/PANA)—Mozambique's main daily newspaper, NOTICIAS, today blamed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf. In a front page editorial, the paper said looking at the harsh reality, the first conclusion is that this tragedy could have been avoided were it not for the intransigence of the Iraqi president in refusing withdrawal his forces from Kuwait.

The paper noted that the Thursday [17 January] attacks on Iraq cannot be interpreted as being solely an initiative of the United States, or of any of the other countries involved taken individually, since the operation had the go-ahead from the United Nations Security Council. The editorial is pessimistic about the future. The worst is yet to come, says the paper and poor countries, ours included, will not escape the damaging and unforeseeable consequences of this massive destruction.

It predicts that the economic situation of the poorest countries of the so-called Third World will worsen dramatically. The times that are to come will be much poorest than those we have already experienced. NOTICIAS predicts that the war will affect each and every one of us, in every house, every office, every factory, everywhere without discrimination. What is already happening is very bad, but the worst has not yet started.

Trade Minister on Economy

MB1801151491 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1030 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Trade Minister Daniel Gabriel Tembe has said the Gulf war will bring disastrous consequences for Mozambique. Commenting on the economic and social effect of the war on our country, the minister said:

[Begin Tembe recording] Obviously, a country like ours would suffer a major impact of the current war in the Persian Gulf. The immediate effect is that an increase in

oil prices on the international market will further reduce our capacity to import fuel. This capacity is already weak and it will be weaker if oil prices go up. I believe that oil prices will go up significantly in a few days to come.

Coupled with this problem is the fact that the country has a shortage of foreign exchange. We experience a shortage of foreign exchange and if our capacity to import fuel is reduced, this naturally means that our productive capacity will also reduce.

Our industries will therefore experience this impact because they depend on fuel which is a basic and vital product. The result of this will be a shortage of product supply for our economy soon. We shall subsequently experience every kind of social problems resulting therefrom.

Accordingly, our hope was that the war wouldn't break out in the Gulf. It is, therefore, for us a matter of concern that it did. Now, we will have to think—the government will have to think—what measures to adopt. Obviously, any measures to be adopted in this regard would have to be ones of austerity, particularly with regard to fuel consumption. This is what I foresee would happen in immediate future. [end recording]

Business Official Comments

MB1801163291 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1030 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Diogo Guilande, representative of Mozambique's Private Businessmen Association, has spoken of the immediate impact of the Gulf war on Mozambican businessmen.

[Begin Guilande recording] The war's first negative result will naturally be a high cost of factors of production, such as fuel, forcing us to readjust our programs. Basically, this is what I foresee happening very soon.

One or two weeks from now, the problem will be serious and the government will be faced with the difficulty of finding additional funds to alleviate the problem. [end recording]

Finance Minister on Fuel Situation

MB2001094091 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Finance Minister Abdul Magid Osman has warned that the country's fuel situation will become dramatic if the war continues in the Persian Gulf.

However, Minister Osman noted that should the war end quickly and without the involvement of other countries, Mozambique might enjoy considerable benefits because oil prices might decrease markedly.

Niger**Niger Radio, Senegalese React to Gulf Fighting**

*AB1701143291 Libreville Africa No. 1
in French 1230 GMT 17 Jan 91*

[Excerpts] In black Africa, Senegal has sent troops to the Gulf and is concerned by the developments in the region. On the line from Dakar, Lamine Toure conveyed the general feeling of Senegalese to Eugene Elamba:

[Begin recording] [Toure] It should be recalled that Senegal sent troops to Saudi Arabia to contribute to reinstating the legal institutions in Kuwait under Iraq's occupation and also to defending the Saudi territory, which hosts the holy places of Islam. Eighty-five percent of the Senegalese people are Muslim.

Speaking this morning, Foreign Minister Oumar Sy observed that legality and justice should prevail with Kuwait recovering its territory. He also recalled that Senegal has sent 500 soldiers to the Gulf. That is the official reaction recorded here.

[Elamba] What is the feeling in Dakar after the raids?

[Toure] There is a widespread feeling of satisfaction following the first air raid against Iraq. People feel that it was a punitive strike against Saddam Husayn and at the same time the first move toward the original objective, which is the liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Niger is another African country which has sent a contingent to the Gulf. Eugene Elamba called Omar Thiero of Niger Radio and asked him if Niger has officially reacted to the attack by the allied forces against Iraq.

[Begin recording] [Thiero] At this point in time, there has not yet been any official comment on the developments. We have, however, embarked on moves to reassure the population since our troops in the Gulf are not directly involved in the attack. They are in the rear, on Saudi soil. [passage omitted]

Of course there has been some anxiety among the people. This is because when parents are out at the battlefield and you receive such reports on attacks, you become more anxious.

[Elamba] What is the actual atmosphere in the country?

[Thiero] Well, concerning the atmosphere, I will simply say that people have a wait-and-see attitude. They also want to know about the Niger contingent. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Students Demand Withdrawal of Troops From Gulf

*AB1801171891 London BBC World Service
in English 1635 GMT 18 Jan 91*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] After a year of demonstrations and strikes in Niger, the last thing the government there would have wanted were demonstrations in support of Iraq and Saddam Husayn, particularly as President Ali Saibou has sent a token force of soldiers to Saudi Arabia. But the demonstrations have happened as Sheikh Ibrahim Diop reports in this telex from Niamey:

[Begin studio announcer recording] More than 2,000 students from Niamey University and secondary schools in the city have been involved in a pro-Iraqi demonstration. The crowd passed in front of the Presidency shouting slogans against President Ali Saibou and his government. They demanded the withdrawal of Niger's troops in the Gulf there as part of the anti-Iraqi alliance. They claimed that the president had only sent his forces in return for money. Long live to Saddam Husayn! Long live to the PLO president, Yasir 'Arafat, they shouted. Outside the French Consulate, the students stopped and shouted anti-French slogans.

Demonstrators complained that the president had not consulted the people of Niamey before making the decision to send troops to the frontline in Saudi Arabia. They said that the president had been persuaded by a delegation from Saudi Arabia that had recently visited Niamey. Only after announcing the sending of the troops to the Gulf did he inform the parliament in Niamey. For his part, the president has justified his support for the forces allied against Saddam Husayn in terms of the defense of Muslim holy lands. [end recording]

Liberia**Cease-Fire Talks Begin in Monrovia 18 Jan****Johnson, Taylor Reconcile**

*AB1801174891 London BBC World Service
in English 1615 GMT 18 Jan 91*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Cease-fire talks have been underway in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, today and it seems that two of the warring factions have come full circle. Prince Johnson and Charles Taylor have each claimed the death of the other at various times since the rebellion began last year. They vowed to defeat and kill each other and their bitter rivalry seemed to be unreconcilable. But now it seems they are buddies again. Here is Chris Greene:

[Begin Greene recording] Prince Johnson called us up this afternoon on an extremely bad line to announce joyfully that he had now patched up his quarrel with

Charles Taylor. He said that he had not disbanded his organization to rejoin Taylor, but from now on they would be working together. They would no longer be trying to kill each other. He then passed over the telephone to Taylor's defense spokesman, Tom Woewiyu, who has travelled to Monrovia from Taylor territory for today's cease-fire meeting. He confirmed that his quarrel with Johnson had been patched up. He said that he was now in territory controlled by Johnson and felt completely safe.

This new-found unity between the two, however, could be at the expense Interim President Amos Sawyer and ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-fire Monitoring Group]. Both men were adamant that Amos Sawyer's interim government was no longer valid and that now the warring factions had settled their differences, Sawyer would have to quit and a new interim government would have to be formed.

Prince Johnson was also extremely rude to the ECOMOG commander, Nigeria's General Dogonyaro. He said that he did not mind some of the soldiers that make up ECOMOG but the Nigerians were totally out of order. Prince Johnson claimed that Nigerian soldiers in ECOMOG were still threatening his positions. He had asked them to move away but they had refused to do so. [end recording]

More on Talks

AB1801193291 London BBC World Service
in English 1830 GMT 18 Jan 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] After false starts and delays, the Liberian cease-fire talks finally got under way in Monrovia today, with the Nigerian field commander of the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] force in the chair, and representatives of the warring parties, General Bowen's Armed Forces of Liberia, AFL; Prince Johnson's rebel faction; and Charles Taylor's Patriotic Front all there. On the line to Monrovia, Robin White asked our correspondent Scott Sterns if there has been any progress:

[Begin recording] [Sterns] Yes, that was the (?information) that they gave firmly. The meeting is being chaired by Dogonyaro [ECOMOG commander] with assistance from the ECOWAS special representative, Nigerian Ambassador Iroha. There was certainly a mood among the gentlemen in the delegation I spoke with this morning, Taylor's Justice Minister Supuwood; Prince Johnson; Colonel (Digg), for the Armed Forces of Liberia, that there were certain [words indistinct] agreement which can be made today and that they will try to get it and pass it as close as possible.

[White] How long will these talks go on. They just [words indistinct] or they on over the weekend?

[Sterns] There is a feeling that since the talks have gone as late tonight, these delegations will be spending the night somewhere in Monrovia, and the talks will go on tomorrow, but that they will probably return to Mount Barclay, which is the town on the edge of the buffer zone, from which they came this morning. It is likely that they return there sometime tomorrow afternoon.

[White] It does seem remarkable that Taylor's people feel safe [words indistinct] at all?

[Sterns] Well, Liberian photographers on the scene this morning said they approached Mount Barclay with a sizeable guard but that there was little fanfare when they joined the ECOMOG convoy with two unarmed body guards. There was a sense of relief this morning that the three factions were finally sitting down and talking, though Justice Minister Supuwood said that as he was crossing, it was painful to see foreign troops on Liberian soil and made it clear that it was his position that it is time for citizens to decide their future without relying on foreign troops or the foreign press for that matter.

[White] Now, here in London today, we got a call from Prince Johnson and a spokesman from Taylor and they both said they have completely buried their difference. Now, what do you make of that, in that only a short while ago, they were completely at each other's throat?

[Sterns] Well, there are a lot of people at each other's throat and then there are a lot of people burying each other's differences. Prince Johnson was at ECOMOG earlier on in the week. This afternoon, Abbas Bundu briefed the press and said that the concern that Johnson [words indistinct] ECOMOG this weekend had been removed because this [word indistinct] that he was talking about was moved to the junction behind the front and that there was a clear understanding about positions. I think that the Johnson delegation has gone a long way with the Taylor delegation and the AFL delegation. There did not seem to be any animosity in the Executive pavillion this morning.

[White] So, the (?atmosphere) looked quite good?

[Sterns] I believe so, yes. I mean, the fact that they met this morning, their discussions are even still continuing this evening, and we are now to believe that they will go on until tomorrow, with the implication that there will be further talks in Charles Taylor's territory soon, at the middle of next week perhaps. I think those were all encouraging signs.

[White] Now, Prince Johnson was making some very rude comments the Nigerian commander of ECOMOG, General Dogonyaro.

[Sterns] Well, he does that actually periodically. Prince Johnson makes comments about a lot of people. He is direct at [words indistinct] his public statements, but this morning, at the ceremony he said that his delegation had come, committed to a total cease-fire and hoping for democratic and free and fair elections. [end recording]

Talks Continue

*AB1901131091 Monrovia Radio ELBC
in English 0900 GMT 19 Jan 91*

[Text] Talks aimed at concluding plans for the monitoring of the Liberian cease-fire continued today in Monrovia. Representatives of Liberia's warring factions—the National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL], the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia, and the Armed Forces of Liberia—are meeting in Monrovia to follow up the cease-fire declaration signed in Bamako last October.

The meeting continued into the early hours of today with delegates going over the [word indistinct] for ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] to monitor the cease-fire. The meeting was attended by ECOMOG field commander, Major General Joshua Dogonyaro, and ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] political officer, Ambassador (Aroha). The NPFL is represented by Tom Woewiyu, Laveli Supuwood, (Yondway Monlokoman) and (Joe Tuwa).

It is expected that the Monrovia meeting will end today. The first technical meeting on the Liberian cease-fire was held in Banjul, The Gambia, last month.

Agreement Reportedly Reached

*AB2001111291 Monrovia Radio ELBC
in English 0900 GMT 20 Jan 91*

[Text] [Monitored in progress] All Liberians concerned are urged to seriously ponder the tragedy which has engulfed the nation with the view of avoiding pain, (Lintle) said.

ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], the proposal says, should be the sole convening authority of the all-Liberia conference and that the chairman of ECOWAS preside over the proceedings of such a conference.

As the decisions of the conference are expected to have far-reaching implications for the future stability of Liberia and its continuity, delegates, (Lintle) proposes, must be drawn from existing political parties, the warring parties, interest, pressure, and professional groups of national character that have existed up to and beyond 24 December 1989. All interest and pressure groups should, however, enjoy observer status at the national conference. The Liberian National Bar Association, the LNBA, and the All-County Legislative Causus have expressed their opposition to the formation of a new interim government for Liberia.

The talks on the modalities for the full implementation and monitoring of the cease-fire agreement among

Liberia's warring parties continued today at the Executive Pavillion in Monrovia. Sources close to the conference disclosed that agreements have been reached on all the articles on the agenda except the aspect which deals with disarmament and confinement of troops in barracks designated at the controlled areas. The sources also say this aspect became the most difficult part because the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, NPFL, is requesting additional time to confer with its leader, Mr. Charles Taylor.

This is the first time that talks are being held in Monrovia. Previous meetings have been held in Banjul, The Gambia, and Bamako, in Mali.

Talks 'Deadlock' Over Troops

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[Text] Cease-fire talks among Liberia's warring factions ended yesterday in Monrovia in a deadlock over the issues of disarmament and confinement of troops. Representatives of the various factions refused to talk to the press. However, a statement issued by the cease-fire technical committee of the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Standing Mediation Committee says the issue of confinement of troops and disarming them is essential and critical to the Liberian peace process.

The ECOWAS statement says the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, NPFL, is requesting time to consult its leader Mr. Charles Taylor. A third issue of concern to the NPFL is the inspection of all ships, aircraft, and vehicles entering Liberia. The NPFL says the inspection should be done by two ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] representatives and two representatives from each of the warring factions.

ECOMOG agrees to have two representatives from the warring factions join them, but says restricting it to two representatives will impede its right to implement its responsibility. ECOMOG also says it is not a warring faction and cannot enter into such an agreement with the warring factions.

The Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia, INPFL, agreed to confine its troops, but not to have them disarmed. The Armed Forces of Liberia, the AFL, accepted the cease-fire document as presented and did not see any objections to it except for cosmetic changes.

Meanwhile, the warring factions have agreed to refrain from acquiring and importing war materials, to cease all hostilities of military and paramilitary nature, as well as to assist in drawing up buffer zones. The warring factions also agreed to release all hostages and political prisoners.

The cease-fire talks are expected to reconvene next Tuesday.

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